October 10, 2019

Scripture

Luke 11:5-13
Jesus said to his disciples:
"Suppose one of you has a friend
to whom he goes at midnight and says,
'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,
for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey
and I have nothing to offer him,'
and he says in reply from within,
'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked
and my children and I are already in bed.
I cannot get up to give you anything.'
I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves
because of their friendship,
he will get up to give him whatever he needs
because of his persistence.
"And I tell you, ask and you will receive;
seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.
For everyone who asks, receives;
and the one who seeks, finds;
and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.
What father among you would hand his son a snake
when he asks for a fish?
Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?
If you then, who are wicked,
know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit
to those who ask him?"
Our Scripture Reflection

In our Gospel text, Jesus continues His teaching on prayer by using some practical examples of how prayer works from God’s side and from the human side. God is a loving provider of our needs but not necessarily of our wants. As people of faith we must discern the difference BEFORE we utter our prayers. We must never give up on praying once our needs have been discerned. We must be persistent, humble yet confident and trusting. Bottom line, if a good friend will help out a friend I need and a good parent will give good things to their children, how much more will God provide.

Food for your Journey

A seventeenth-century rabbi, Leona Medina, explained (prayer) this way: If you watch a man out on a boat grab a rope and pull his boat to shore you might think, if you were confused about weight and motion, that he was really pulling the shore to his boat. People have much the same confusion about spiritual weight and motion: In prayer, some believe that you are pulling God closer to you. But in fact the heartfelt prayer pulls you closer to God. I have prayed in fear and in joy, in crisis and in calm. Each time I understood that what I was asking for was not the object of my prayer. My prayer that I would be healed was a prayer, stripped of all its topmost layers, to be assured that whatever happened would be all right. Every prayer in this way is a prayer for peace; it is peace in the world and in one’s soul, the certainty that the pain is not empty, the world not a void, the soul is not alone.  


A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Please make me humble as I learn to pray. Help me to learn that prayer is not about changing You, but rather, it is about changing me. May my prayers make me even more humble and trusting. Amen